

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. SRI1P041 (DCRN4015-5)

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Foulger et al. (US Patent 6,578,022, Issued April 18, 2000, herein referred to as Foulger). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the Foulger reference has a filing date of April 18, 2000. Although Applicants' application was filed on July 10, 2000, Applicants' application claims priority to a parent application filed on September 17, 1999 (Serial # 09/398,233). This claim of priority was made in a Preliminary Amendment filed on April 4, 2001. As such, Applicants submit that the Foulger reference is not proper prior art against Applicants' invention.

Thus, claims 1-15 are not anticipated by the teaching of Foulger and they fully satisfy the requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

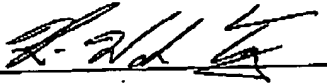
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Respectfully submitted,

10/12/04

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